4. Rs. 15,347 under "28-A-*Civil Engineering-Buildings-Original"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 15,347 under "28-A-Civil Engineering-Buildings-Original". The details of this expenditure are given in the printed notes circulated to the Standing Finance Committee. The first item is a sum of Rs. 6,800 representing the cost of certain repairs and additions done to the Ram Mohan Palace. Though it is a new building we had to do certain repairs on account of the fact that certain rectifications had to be done and the cost of these rectifications amounted to Rs. 1,800. This Rs. 6,800 is not for re-doing certain works which have already been done. The balance of Rs. 5,000 was meant for additions to the building. I am saying that because it may be construed that all the Rs. 6,800 was spent for the rectification work. It is only Rs. 1,800 that was spent for that. Item number 2 represents compensation to be paid to the National Furniture Company who did the wood work for the Ram Mohan Palace. The design of the doors and windows had to be changed as per the advice of the consulting architect. It was not contemplated in the original estimate. On account of this, some additional work had to be done and a sum of Rs. 3,800 had to be given to meet the claims of the contractor.

Then the third item which is a small amount of Rs. 410 to provide certain brass fittings to the ventilators. A sum of Rs. 5,610 has to be spent for asphalting the drives in the Ram Mohan Palace. The soil is very slushy and it was found very difficult to get a firm surface in the drives of the Ram Mohan Palace. The sum of Rs. 5,610 is for asphalting these drives. These form the main features of the expenditure. I beg the House will be pleased to sanction this allotment.

Mr. President: There are a number of token motions in the name of Mr. Viswambharan. But the member can speak about all these motions together and he can cover all these points.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, my position is this. There is already a budget provision of Rs. 10,000 which is in my opinion absolutely sufficient to keep the building in proper condition. Items three onwards, according to me, constitute extravagance which may not possibly be necessary to make the thing an ideal building. My submission to this House will be that in the matter of grants being brought before this House on account of

* For details please see the Minutes of the Standing Finance Committee, Appendix.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

additional items of works and such expenditure is brought to the House for sanction, such a procedure should be very violently vetoed and the Government should find it possible to wait till the proper time comes, which is the budget session. As regards the details of the various works for which this House has to give its approval, I submit they are really not necessary to keep the building in proper condition, unless it be to improve it in such a fashion as to create an impression in the minds of the visitors from outside who want to ventilate their political grievances in our State. As regards the details of the works, I would like the House to devote special attention to the items regarding the asphalting of the drives in the Ram Mohan Palace. It is evident to all the Members of the Hon'ble House that the roads in Ernakulam are in the most miserable condition and whenever Government is asked to give any help in the way of improving these roads, the only advice given by the Government is to increase the taxation and thereby increase the burden. But for this costly luxury, Government find it possible and they consider it proper to come before this House for its approval. I therefore request this House to join with me in disallowing all the items from 3 up to 13.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know whether there is any particular reason why these items from 3 onwards were not included in the budget?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The necessity for these items came up only after the budget was presented before the House.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know why?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The main item is about asphalting the drives in the Ram Mohan Palace. We found during the last monsoon that the roads were very slushy and it was impossible to keep them in proper order. Government have not been unaware of the necessity for improving the surfaces of the roads in Ernakulam. We have taken up a large construction work in asphalting the main road in the foreshore.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know whether the Government cannot wait till the Budget Session?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We thought of presenting this at the next Budget Session but the contractors for the supply of asphalt then said that there was a chance of the price of asphalt going up in case of war. We therefore took the opportunity of placing the order for asphalt in time.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ഏതെങ്കിലും വക്ക് ഇതിൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ: ഇതിൽ ഒന്നും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ഇതൊക്കെ സാക്ഷൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ട ചെയ്യേണ്ട വക്കുകളാണോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ: ചെറുതായ ചില വക്കുകൾ Entrust ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ഏതെങ്കിലും വക്ക് കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ: ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: Entrust ചെയ്തിട്ട ഇതേവരെ നടത്തീട്ടില്ലെ; അതിനി നടത്തേണ്ടേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ: വേണം; ഇതിൽ മുക്കാൽ ഭാഗവും നടത്തീട്ടില്ല.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: What is the nature of the rectification work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: There were a few cracks and those were grouted with cement.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam)*: Sir, with regret, I have to oppose the grant. From time to time, Sir, supplementary demands have been made for this costly luxury of the Ram Mohan Palace. I would respectfully call the attention of the hon'ble members to a very large amount that was demanded as supplementary grant at the last budget session. An amount of half a lakh of rupees was demanded on that occasion. At the budget session a supplementary grant came and on that occasion for a question put by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur North, *viz.*, whether any further amounts will have to be spent for further repairs or to fill any cracks, the answer on behalf of the Government was "no appreciable amount will have to be spent."

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: That is for repairs.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam)*: Today under the item for repairs we find an amount of Rs. 6,800.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: That is already included in the Budget.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam)*: In that case certain other items that are included seem to be unnecessary. The Ram Mohan Palace has become the white elephant of the Cochin State especially when there are other urgent needs to be attended to.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The previous speaker alluded to the miserable condition of the Roads in Ernakulam. But more urgent than that, there are needs and needs and when we cry for such needs the reply is there is no money. Why all these new items, why all these innovations in the Ram Mohan Palace? Why should certain things be "dismantled"? Why should there be construction of cisterns and providing collapsable gates? Really we should collapse under these demands if this is to be the case. I consider that many of these are unnecessary ones if at all necessary. These should have been included in the original estimate amounts. I regret that I have to oppose this demand.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Sir, I have tabled a motion for the reduction of the total demand by Rs. 7,265. This amount relates to two items, 10 and 11—asphalting the drives in the Ram Mohan Palace and asphalting the foot-paths on the sides. Sir, I may be permitted to formally move it. As regards the other items I do not wish to say much at this stage because the main ground urged against them is why they were not anticipated before. Now that we have the Ram Mohan Palace, I think that it is only wise to allow all amounts necessary for its upkeep consistent with its beauty and usefulness. But as regards items 10 and 11, I would respectfully submit that they stand on a different footing and can be avoided. The reason advanced by the Hon'ble Member for Public Works is that the road is slushy during the rainy season. Asphalting is not necessary to prevent it. By raising the level of the road or by metalling them properly, the object can be achieved. When I think of the dust nuisance in road all over the State especially after the advent of the motor cars I would consider it an exhibition of the callousness of the Government in spending money in asphalting the drives in a palace without doing anything to prevent the dusts nuisance outside. I therefore formally move for the reduction of this grant of Rs. 7,565

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* I oppose this grant except for items one and two. I oppose it mainly on two grounds. One is, it is a very unhealthy practice to move for supplementary grants after showing a small amount in the budget and then asking for a bigger amount in the shape of supplementary grant, unless the House is convinced of the urgency of the work. So far as items one and two are concerned, I do not for a moment dispute the necessity for doing it because I myself had the opportunity of visiting that magnificent building and to be convinced of the number of cracks which require immediate repairs. Considering the large sums of money that have been spent, I think that by timely repairs it should be kept in tact. I cannot for a moment follow the necessity for Rs. 15,000 now

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

sought to be spent on items which for no reasons can be said to be of an urgent character. If, as the Hon'ble Member for Engineering was stating, the value of these things will go high on account of the war, I ask the House where is the harm in waiting till the war is over. Is the whole of the Cochin State going to fall? I can understand the building may fall if it is not repaired but I cannot understand the Government moving for supplementary grants for sums over and above what have been stated in this House in the general budget for purposes which are not urgent and for which no reasonable support should be extended? On this main principle I oppose it. I have also to make one more observation before the House. Whatever may be the artistic merits of the palace or our taste for the art, I must frankly confess that this Ram Mohan Palace is growing a white elephant. We are tired of the enormous sums spent upon it. Of course a time may come when our State becomes richer and magnificent buildings like the Ram Mohan Palace may be financed. Then we can spend so much money. But to spend money from sources of taxation like the Town Councils Bill is a proposition which I cannot appreciate. Therefore I say that the expenditure on these items should be lessened as far as possible and our difficulty will be duly appreciated by the Government in this respect. It is not against Ram Mohan Palace at all. It is our difficulty to be willing hands in spending money upon luxuries that stands in the way. On this principle, I oppose the grants for items from three onwards.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: സർ, റാം മോഹൻ പാലസിനെപ്പററി എതിരായിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളിൽ അധികവും അതിന്റെ പ്രയോജനത്തെപ്പററിയുള്ള വിശ്വാസക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. റാം മോഹൻ പാലസ് ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നു് ധരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഈ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായിട്ടുള്ളതായിരിക്കാം. റാം മോഹൻ പാലസുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു മനോഹരമന്ദിരം കൊച്ചിയെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഒരു വെള്ളാനയായിട്ടില്ല] ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നതു്.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* It is only of comparative importance.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: റാം മോഹൻ പാലസിന്റെ പ്രയോജനം മനസ്സിലാകണമെങ്കിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ ക്രസ്ത്യാനികളുടേയും, ഹിന്ദുക്കളുടേയും ഗൃഹനിർമ്മാണത്തിലുള്ള അഭിരുചി പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ മതി. ഞായറാഴ്ചതോറും മനോഹരമായ ഒരു പള്ളിയുടെയുള്ളിൽ പോയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ക്രസ്ത്യാനി എത്ര പിശുക്കനായാലും ഗൃഹനിർമ്മാണത്തിൽ വലിയ ധാരാളിയായിട്ടാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. ക്രസ്ത്യാനികളേക്കാൾ പണമുള്ള ഹിന്ദുക്കളും, ഹിന്ദുക്കളേക്കാൾ പണം കുറഞ്ഞ ക്രസ്ത്യാനികളും പണിയിക്കുന്ന ഗൃഹങ്ങൾ നോക്കിയാൽ ഈ വ്യത്യാസം മനസ്സിലാക്കാം. പ്രയോജനമെന്നുള്ളതു് കേവലം സ്ഥൂലമായ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

സംഗതികളെ മാത്രം ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ക്ഷണത്തേക്കാളും വെള്ള ത്തെക്കാളും മനുഷ്യനു പ്രയോജനമുള്ള വളരെ സൂക്ഷ്മതരമായ ചില സംഗ തികളുണ്ട്. എത്ര പണം ചിലവാക്കിയാലും വേണ്ടില്ല, ഒരു റാം മോഹൻ പാലസെങ്കിലും കൊച്ചിക്കാർക്കു കണ്ടറിനന്ദിക്കാനും അതിൽനിന്നുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഭംഗിബോധം അവരവരുടെ ഗൃഹനിർമ്മാണത്തിലും മറ്റും പകരാനും ആയി അതു ഭംഗിയായി വെച്ചിരുന്നാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. പിന്നെ ഇവിടെ വളരെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വേറെ നടത്താനുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നു. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങളൊക്കെ നിവൃത്തിച്ചശേഷം, റോഡു സംബന്ധമായോ, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സംബന്ധമായോ മറെറന്തെങ്കിലും വിധത്തി ലൊ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ആവശ്യങ്ങളൊക്കെ നിവൃത്തിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം ഈ കായ്യം നിവൃത്തിക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊച്ചിരാജ്യം പ്രളയത്തിലായശേഷ വും ഇതു സാധ്യമല്ല. ഈ കായ്യത്തിൽ മറെറാവശ്യങ്ങളും പണത്തിന്റെ കു റവും പറയുന്നതു് പാവന്റെ മത്തരവും പെനി ബുദ്ധിയും എന്നേ തോന്നുന്നു ള്ളൂ. പിന്നെ ഇതു് അർജൻറായ ഒരാവശ്യമല്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നു. യുദ്ധം കഴിയു ന്നതുവരെ ഇതു നീട്ടിവെക്കരുതേ എന്നാണു് ചോദിക്കുന്നതു. എന്നാൽ യു ദ്ധം എത്രകാലം നീണ്ടുനില്ക്കുമെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ഒരഞ്ചു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കു യു ദ്ധം നീണ്ടുനിന്നാൽ അതുവരെ ഈ കായ്യം നീട്ടിവെക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Where is the urgency ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ : ഈ കായ്യം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനു സെക്രട്ടറിയുള്ളപക്ഷം ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ ചെയ്യണമെന്നേയുള്ളൂ. ഒരു വേല തുടങ്ങി മാത്രം പൂർത്തിയാക്കണമെന്നു ഒരു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു തോന്നിയാൽ ആ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കാലം നോക്കിക്കൊണ്ടു അതു ചെയ്യുതീർക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കണം. അതിൽ ആക്ഷേപത്തിനു വകയില്ല.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is the hon'ble member aware that several times we have allowed such amounts ?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I rise to support this motion, that is the motion made by the Engineering Member for the grant. I find that in the current budget there is a provision of Rs. 10,000. I also now heard in this House that Rs. 10,661 of the expenditure here referred to is also necessary. Deducting these two figures, I find there is only a sum of Rs. 4,681 that has to be considered by this House. Therefore for the sake of Rs. 4,686 extra we are having a debate. The first figure is Rs. 6,800 and the second figure is Rs. 3,861. These two figures are to be allowed. Items Nos. 1 and 2 were allowed. That comes to Rs. 10, 661. Then they have got Rs. 10,000 in the current budget. Adding these two figures together we get Rs. 20,661. The additional allotment is only for Rs. 25,347. Therefore the Balance, will be only Rs. 4,686. Having given all the major amount of the money why should we grudge giving Rs. 4,686 to put the magnificent palace in order, or to beautify it further by

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

that sum? Moreover, those are sinking grounds. Naturally during the next monsoon, if we do not allow this expenditure, I can say, that we may have to incur more expenditure later on. This is the sheer fact. You may laugh at it. But it is no good opposing the Government at every juncture. I am one of those who think that no supplementary grant should come into this House. We have opposed supplementary grants, we have opposed transfers. We have asked the account books to be brought here. I do not know whether the books are there now. We have asked that the books of accounts kept by the Comptroller of Accounts should be kept here to see whether there are even transfers from one minor head to another, and they used to be kept here. But now, I do not think those books are there. Later on, I want to raise a point of order on that, but that apart; as for the necessity of this grant, I feel convinced—whatever you may think of me that I am supporting the Government in this matter—that this is the only structure of which we can boast in Ernakulam. Have we not spent municipal funds for beautifying the municipal buildings here? Was there any one to grudge the expenditure? If you only go to Trivandrum, you will see a number of palaces that have been built. If you go to Mysore, there too you will find very beautiful palaces.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* They have got money.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* If they have no money I do not think the present Government would have tabled this motion. They can find money, so they have brought this.

If we go outside and see the beautiful buildings that Governments have built there, my heart rejoices to see at least one building in Ernakulam which can be pointed out to be a decent place for guests or others that come here. I therefore have got great pleasure in supporting this demand.

Mr. President: I think there is some misconception regarding the need or urgency of some of these items. Purely on questions of fact, I wish to offer a few words. Items Nos. 1 and 2 have already been granted. Nos. 3 and 9 are identical and are for providing brass fitters to the ventilators and providing them with B. R. C. fabrics. These were found to be very urgent. Ventilators, as originally designed were of the fixed type with the result that the Superintendent complaints that especially during the monsoon period, the rooms got so stuffy that the furniture became absolutely spoilt. Therefore we had to order that all these permanently fixed ventilators should be removed and proper hinges and B. R. C.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

fabrics should be provided for them. So much with regard to items 3 and 9.

Then Item No. 4.—Paving with R. C. slabs all round the Ram Mohan Palace and constructing drains. When the sinking of the foundation was observed, I asked our architect to come and examine the building and he was of opinion that this sinking of the foundation will deteriorate still further especially during the next monsoon if the sides are not protected with concrete slabs. What happens now is the heavy monsoon rains sinks into the earth and damages the whole foundation and it was our architect, Mr. Chittale who advised us as a measure of precaution to protect the foundation with R. C. Slabs.

Item No. 5.—Providing glass shutters in the eastern quadrangle in the Ram Mohan Palace. When I inspected the building during the last monsoon it was found that the rain was pouring in so much inside that the entire verandah got flooded. Therefore purely as a measure of protection against rains, we had to provide shutters without which the interior of the building would be considerably damaged.

Item No. 6.—Construction of cisterns in the Ram Mohan Palace. These are to be put up in the gardens. We found as a result of experience that if we do not have suitable water cisterns, the recurring expenditure in employing a number of gardeners is very great. As a result of spending this Rs. 1,650 we would probably be saving the salary of at least 4 additional gardeners, or at least Rs. 48 per month. That is really a remunerative work.

Item No. 7.—Providing collapsible gates for the west and south porches in the Ram Mohan Palace and Item No. 8, R. C. Jalli work —These two works were found to be necessary, because, both the entrances were so designed in the beginning as to provide certain ornamental gates. At the time the building was constructed, we were doubtful whether these ornamental gates would fit in there. Later on, it was reported by the Superintendent that stray animals have access into the building and one day, he found a couple of dogs sleeping inside the rooms. As a measure of protecting the building, these collapsible doors have to be put up.

With regard to items 10 and 11, asphalting the drives and foot-paths in the Ram Mohan Palace, the Chief Engineer has already explained the position. The whole compound was absolutely slushy during the rains, because it was a compound that was raised and inspite of all the raising, it was found that the whole of the ground was slushy. And we thought that the most radical solution would be to asphalt the drives and foot-paths. The contractors pointed

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

out that the price of asphalt was growing up enormously and we thought that we would protect ourselves against huge expenditure by doing this work now itself.

With regard to item No. 12, *i. e.*, supply of stair carpets to the Ram Mohan Palace, it may be considered to be a luxury on which there may be differences of opinion; but personally, I think, that such a magnificent staircase should have carpets worth Rs. 601 and it is not a luxury.

Item No. 13 is compensation to be paid to the contractor. In fact this item goes with item No. 2. These are the nature of the items. Hon'ble members have presumed that except items Nos. 1 and 2 all others are not urgent. I only give these as questions of fact and not with a view to influence decisions.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Sir, before the demand is put to vote I would like to suggest to the Hon'ble President that the items comprising the grant may be put to vote separately as several hon'ble members hold different views with regard to each item.

Mr. President: If hon'ble members so wish I have no objection.

All the items were then put to vote one by one and carried

Legislative Business

Government Bills

1. The Cochin Police Act Amendment Bill

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja *(Advocate-General):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Police Act Amendment Bill be read in council.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* I second it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja *(Advocate-General):* Section 24-A of the Cochin Police Act, I of 1058, was added by Act, VI of 1098. That section authorises the District Magistrate with the previous sanction of Government and subject to the orders made by a municipal or other local authority to frame rules for regulation of traffic and for preservation of order in public places, etc. By an accidental omission no penalty was provided in the Act for the violation of the rules. So, this bill is only to fill up that gap in the Act. I request that the House may be pleased to accept the motion.

Motion put and carried

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly